

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 02389 312236Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 SSO-00 /063 W

-----068765 312245Z /65

O 312159Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8729

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2389

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNHRC, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: MEZVINSKY VISIT TO SANTIAGO

REF: STATE 082344 AND PREVIOUS

1. THERE IS AN INHERENT CONFLICT BETWEEN AMBASSADOR MEZVINSKY'S DESIRE "TO KEEP THE TRIP AS LOW-KEY AS POSSIBLE" (STATE 74811), A DESIRE SHARED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL (SANTIAGO 2105), AND HIS REQUEST TO HAVE AND TO BE SEEN TO HAVE SOME CONTACTS WITH APPROPRIATE HUMAN RIGHTS ELEMENTS IN CHILE. IN ORDER TO MANAGE THIS CONFLICT, WE PROPOSE THAT MEZVINSKY:

-- FOREGO MEETING WITH ICEM AND ICRC. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS OPERATE MORE EFFECTIVELY IF THE US MAINTAINS ITS DISTANCE. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE OF THE ICRC. IF MEZVINSKY FEELS STRONGLY THAT SOME CONTACT IN THIS AREA IS NECESSARY, WE WOULD SUGGEST DISCREET MEETING WITH ROBERT KOZAK OF ICEM.

-- MEET WITH THE VICARIATE HEAD PADRE PRECHT AND WITH THE CARDINAL. PRECHT IS IMPORTANT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS UPDATE. THE CARDINAL'S DISQUISITIONS GENERALLY BECOME A COMBINATION OF CRITICISM OF THE GOC SOCIAL/ECONOMIC POLICY AND REQUESTS FOR DIRECT US AID TO THE PEOPLE OF CHILE THROUGH CHURCH-CONTROLLED INSTITUTIONS. THE POINT OF TALKING WITH THE CARDINAL SHOULD BE TO MAKE HIM AWARE
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OF THE CONTENT OF MEZVINSKY'S GOOD OFFICES ROLE, NOT TO SOLICIT HIS VIEWS ON THE CHILE SITUATION. THE CARDINAL IS A KEY OPINION LEADER AND IT IS IMPORTANT THAT HE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED FOR GENEVA. I WOULD SUGGEST THAT I HOST A SMALL LUNCHEON WITH THE CARDINAL AND PRECHT.

-- MEET WITH A FEW OF THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE "DISAPPEARED."
THIS IS TRICKY. THEIR INSTINCTS ARE FOR LOUD DEMONSTRATIONS,

SIT-INS AND OTHER ATTENTION-GETTING DEVICES. WE DO NOT THINK SUCH A MEETING WILL ADD TO HIS KNOWLEDGE AND THERE IS A CHANCE IT WILL COMPLICATE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOC. HOWEVER, WHEN KNOWLEDGE OF MEZVINSKY'S ARRIVAL BECOMES PUBLIC, WE WILL SURELY BE BESIEGED BY REQUESTS FROM RELATIVES AND IT MAY PROVE TACTICALLY DESIREABLE TO INVITE A SMALL AND SELECT GROUP TO THE EMBASSY. WE WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS BY EAR.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE CONFIRMATION OF MEZVINSKY'S ARRIVAL DATE. AFTER CONFIRMATION WE WOULD PROCEED TO FIRM UP MEETINGS WITH GOVERNMENT (PRESIDENT PINOCHET, AND FOREIGN MINISTER VALDES), AS WELL AS ISSUING LUNCH INVITATIONS.
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